

1. (Amended) A DNA fragment which has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1 to 4 and 6 to 24.
2. (Amended) A method for identifying the species or subspecies of a mycobacterial strain comprising the steps of:
 - a) digesting a DNA fragment which has a sequence selected from the group consisting SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO:24 with at least one restriction enzyme selected from the group consisting of *HaeIII*, *MspI*, *Sau3AI*, and *BstEII* to obtain a first DNA fragment length polymorphism pattern;
 - b) isolating a DNA fragment from the mycobacterial strain to be identified;
 - c) amplifying *rpoB* region of the DNA fragment isolated in step (b), said amplification being performed by using a primer of SEQ ID NO: 15 or SEQ ID NO: 26;
 - d) digesting the DNA fragment amplified in step c) with the at least one restriction enzyme employed in step a) to obtain a second DNA fragment length polymorphism pattern; and
 - e) comparing the first DNA fragment length polymorphism pattern obtained in step a) with the second DNA fragment length polymorphism pattern obtained in step d), thereby identifying the species or subspecies of a mycobacterial strain.
3. (Amended) A method of claim 2, wherein said first and second DNA fragment length polymorphism by electrophoresis.
5. (Amended) A method of claim 2, wherein said mycobacterial strain is selected from the group consisting of *M. tuberculosis*, *M. avium*, *M. abscessus*, *M. flavescens*, *M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. chelonae*, *M. celatum*, *M. fortuitum*, *M. gordonae*, *M. gastri*, *M. haemophilum*, *M. intracellulare*, *M. kansasii*, *M. malmoense*, *M. marinum*, *M. szulgai*, *M. terrae*, *M. scrofulaceum*, *M. ulcerans*, and *M. xenopi*.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Corrected Figs. 6a-6b are attached.